



ASPEN GLOBAL  
INNOVATORS GROUP

aspen institute



# The Aspen Global Innovators Group 2023 Impact Report





## Contents

- 4** Letter from the Executive Director
- 6** About the Aspen Global Innovators Group
- 10** The Evolution of the New Voices Fellowship
- 15** Healthy Communities Fellowship
- 19** AMP Health
- 23** Communities First Global Collaborative
- 25** Recognizing Our Funders and Collaborators



## Letter from the Executive Director

Dear Friends and Supporters,

As we reflect on the achievements of our leaders and partners that make up the Aspen Global Innovators Group (AGI) in the past quarter, it is crucial to contextualize our efforts within the broader landscape of global health trends. The world continues to grapple with multifaceted challenges, from the ongoing impact of the COVID-19 pandemic to persistent health inequities to emerging and complex threats like climate change. In the face of these complexities, AGI stands as an ecosystem leader and beacon of innovation and leadership, uniquely positioned to drive transformative change and shape the future of global health.

The launches of our two new programs — Impact West Africa and New Voices Advanced Advocacy Program — underscore AGI's commitment to addressing pressing global health issues with novel solutions designed and led by locally rooted leaders. In a world where health systems are increasingly strained, our focus on fostering local leadership and amplifying underrepresented voices is more critical than ever. By equipping fellows from diverse backgrounds to spearhead advocacy efforts and implement community-driven solutions, AGI catalyzes change at the grassroots level where it matters most.

At the heart of AGI's approach is recognizing the interconnectedness of health and well-being across broader social, economic, and environmental factors. Further, we realize

the critical importance of not only investing in the leadership journeys of our fellows, but also the power and importance of advocacy, communications, and storytelling to effectively accelerate advancements in global health movements. We also recognize the power of connecting our global leaders to serve not only as singular nodes of innovation in their communities or countries, but as connected movement builders and leaders influencing global policy and programs. By addressing the root causes of health disparities and promoting holistic, community-centered solutions, our fellows are improving health outcomes and advancing social justice and sustainable development.

As we look ahead to the next year and beyond, AGI remains steadfast in its commitment to driving positive change in global health and development. In all our work, we remain committed to centering the expertise and power of women and girls as solution-holders. From hosting health systems leadership sessions in Mali and Liberia, to launching the inaugural Global Academy for Community Resilience at the University of Global Health Equity in Rwanda, to deepening and expanding our investments in specific communities in the United States through the Healthy Communities Fellowship, we are poised to make even more significant strides towards our shared vision of a healthier, more equitable world.



*By equipping fellows from diverse backgrounds to spearhead advocacy efforts and implement community-driven solutions, AGI catalyzes change at the grassroots level, where it matters most.”*

We are committed to amplifying the voices of our brave fellows and partners and leveraging our networks and platform to convene leaders who are demanding new paradigms that center equity and inclusion both globally and domestically. I want to express my profound gratitude to our partners, fellows, donors, and funding partners for their unwavering support. Together, we are shaping the future of global health and building a brighter tomorrow for generations to come.

Thank you for your continued support of the Aspen Global Innovators Group.

Sincerely,

**LOLA ADEDOKUN**

*Executive Director  
Aspen Global Innovators Group  
Co-chair of the Aspen Forum on Women and Girls*





# About the Aspen Global Innovators Group

The Aspen Global Innovators Group (AGI) is dedicated to identifying, supporting, and connecting innovative global leaders who drive positive change in health and development. With a vision centered on equity, justice, and values-based leadership, we strive to build a world where every individual has access to equitable opportunities for health and development.



Ivelyse Andino, 2022 Healthy Communities Fellow

## Vision

Our vision is to create a world that centers equity, justice, and values-based leadership across all sectors, accelerating advancements in health and development. We know that true impact extends beyond merely discussing ideas to translating them into tangible actions that drive meaningful change. We understand that impactful ideas must be coupled with real-world applications to effect lasting transformation, and we endeavor to bridge the gap between innovative concepts and tangible outcomes, thus ensuring lasting transformations.

## Our Approach

At AGI, we operate across three key areas to promote power-shifting and amplify voices from communities most affected by pressing challenges. Our approach involves:



### Elevating Local Leadership

We prioritize elevating the voices of local leaders who are at the forefront of global movements for change. By supporting and connecting these leaders, we enable them to spearhead equitable transformations in health and development within their communities.



### Compelling Change Through Storytelling

We know the power of storytelling to elevate the voices of marginalized communities and advocate for their needs globally. Through storytelling, convenings, and advocacy campaigns, we aim to bring attention to overlooked challenges and solutions, influence policies promoting equitable healthcare access, address systemic inequalities, and compel meaningful change.



### Sustainable Global Impact

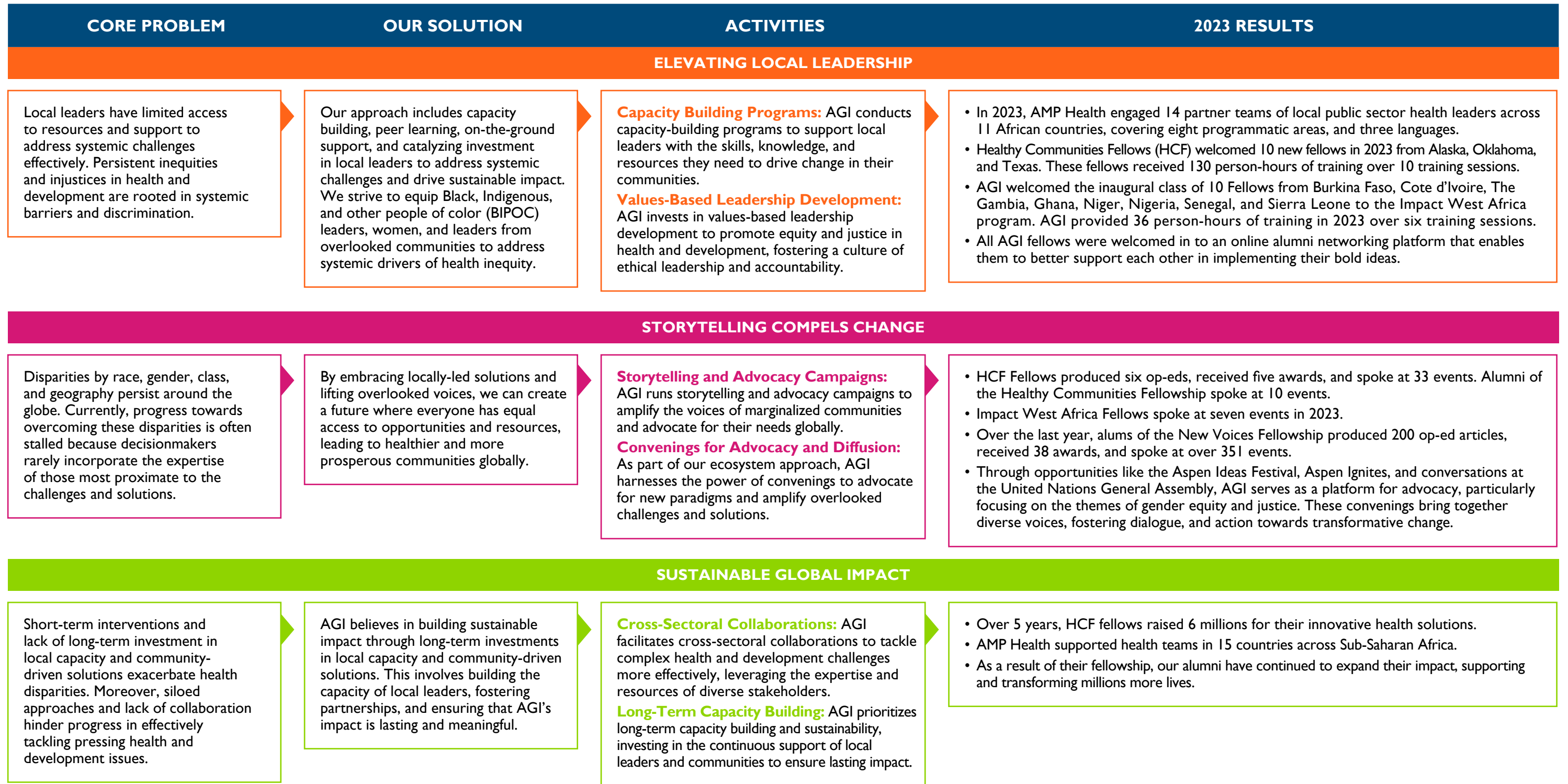
We are committed to ensuring that our initiatives have a lasting and sustainable impact on global health and development. We are committed to advancing equitable access to care that respects and honors culturally-informed values. Our efforts focus on removing the harmful vestiges of colonialism from healthcare systems and ensuring that all individuals receive dignified and culturally sensitive care.

By fostering cross-sectoral collaborations, advocating for evidence-based policies, and investing in long-term capacity building, we strive to create sustainable solutions that address systemic inequalities and promote health equity worldwide.

Through this comprehensive approach, the Aspen Global Innovators Group catalyzes positive change and promote equitable development worldwide.

# Theory of Change

The Aspen Global Innovators Group (AGI) cultivates the next generation of leaders who champion equity and justice in health and development worldwide. Through fellowship, strategic partnership, and advocacy tools, we are catalyzing transformative change via values-based leadership.



## OUR THEORY OF CHANGE CENTERS ON THREE CORE ASSUMPTIONS

**1 Interconnectedness of Outcomes:** AGI assumes that the above outcomes are interconnected and mutually reinforced. Supporting local leaders, amplifying voices, fostering collaboration, promoting equity and justice, and building sustainable impact are all essential to catalyzing equitable transformation.

**2 Positive Feedbackloops:** AGI anticipates that achieving progress in one outcome area will create positive feedback loops contributing to advancements in other areas. For example, supporting local leaders may lead to increased collaboration and amplification of voices, further driving progress toward equity and justice.

**3 Adaptability to Context:** AGI acknowledges that the effectiveness of its approach may vary depending on the context in which it operates. Therefore, AGI remains flexible and adaptable, continuously revisiting and updating its Theory of Change to reflect evolving realities and contextual factors.

# Locally Rooted, Globally Networked: The Evolution of the New Voices Fellowship

## A Decade of Amplifying Voices in Global Development

For 10 years, the [New Voices Fellowship](#) served as a catalyst for change, elevating the voices of experts and advocates from communities closest to development challenges. While we did not select a new cohort of fellows in 2023, our alumni community of senior fellows continues to impact the health and development advocacy, practice, and policy landscape with a commitment to equity and inclusivity. The fellowship has nurtured 187 fellows from 47 countries, spanning diverse sectors and demographics.

## Continued Impact of the New Voices Fellows



**IMPACTFUL ADVOCACY:** New Voices Fellows have authored over 2,200 op-eds, raised more than \$48 million for their organizations post-fellowship, and influenced the lives of over 400 million people through development policy.



**DIVERSE REPRESENTATION:** Fellows represent a broad spectrum of professions and backgrounds including doctors, lawyers, community organizers, midwives, entrepreneurs, and scientists, with over half identifying as women.



**GLOBAL REACH:** The fellowship has supported experts who are passionate about 20 key development areas including climate change, food security, gender equality, and strengthening health systems.

Read more about our journey over the past decade in [the Aspen Global Innovators New Voices Fellowship 10 year Impact Report](#).

## Adapting Our Model: Charting the Course for the Next Decade of Impact

In response to evolving global development needs, we increased our attention to the power of locally rooted leadership and the dynamic landscape of advocacy. The New Voices Fellowship evolved in 2023 to deepen its investments in senior New Voices Fellows and to develop locally rooted regional leadership models. We were proud to introduce innovative programs designed to increase impact and nurture local leadership.



**IMPACT WEST AFRICA REGIONAL FELLOWSHIP:** AGI's first bilingual program in French and English, the Impact West Africa Fellowship, endeavors to promote locally-driven solutions that address the region's most pressing challenges. In collaboration with Dakar-based partner Niyel, the program aims to spotlight and foster community-based solutions. Through tailored support and resources to development champions from diverse linguistic and cultural backgrounds, we focus on building cross-border alliances and amplifying the voices of underrepresented communities. This program marks a significant step toward regional growth and collaboration.



**ADVANCED ADVOCACY INITIATIVE:** Building on the success of the New Voices Fellowship program, the New Voices Advanced Advocacy Program equips five alums per cohort with the tools and skills necessary to drive impactful advocacy campaigns at national and global levels. Through personalized coaching, mentoring, and training, selected alums receive targeted support in advancing specific advocacy goals aligned with their expertise and passion. By supplying alumni with key funding, advanced advocacy strategies, and strategic partnership opportunities, this initiative aims to accelerate progress toward sustainable development outcomes and systemic change.



**ALUMNI SUPPORT:** As our alumni network grows, the fellowship remains committed to providing ongoing support and capacity-strengthening opportunities. Through advanced communications training, networking events, and mentoring, we prepare alumni to take ownership of advocacy efforts in their communities and leverage their expertise for even greater impact. By investing in our alumni's professional development and leadership skills, we cultivate a vibrant community of change makers capable of driving transformative change at local, national, regional, and global levels.

These new programs represent a strategic evolution of the New Voices Fellowship model, designed to meet the needs of our fellows and maximize our collective impact in the field of global development. By embracing innovation, collaboration, and inclusivity, we boost voices from across the globe and catalyze positive change for generations to come.



# Meet the inaugural Impact West Africa and Advanced Advocacy Fellows

## 2023 Impact West Africa Fellows

**Abdul-Rahman Edward Koroma**  
 Sierra Leone  
 Country Director  
 Centre for Social Economic Empowerment and Development




**Boubacar Zakou Zeinabou**  
 Niger  
 Activist, Feminist




**Donald Singue Tanko**  
 Côte d'Ivoire  
 Climate and Disaster Risk Finance  
 Coordinator of the African Disaster Risk Financing Program,  
 African Development Bank




**Fatou Ndow**  
 The Gambia  
 Program Coordinator,  
 Civil Society Institute for Health




**Koumba Anouma**  
 Cote d'Ivoire  
 Program Director,  
 Investisseurs & Partenaires




**Aly Faye**  
 Senegal  
 Communication Manager, Ipar




**Christian Mampuya**  
 Burkina Faso  
 Country Director,  
 KYNAROU




**Etienne Bilgo**  
 Burkina Faso  
 Research Fellow,  
 IRSS/Centre Muraz




**Gloria Agyare**  
 Ghana  
 Programmes Officer,  
 Ghana Youth Environmental Movement




**Mojirayo Ogunlana Oluwatoyin**  
 Nigeria  
 Digital and Gender Rights Lawyer and Executive Director,  
 DiGiCiviC Initiative




## 2023 Advanced Advocacy Program (AAP) Fellows

**Danjuma Adda**  
 Nigeria  
 Past-President, World Hepatitis Alliance  
 UK and Executive Director, Centre for Initiative and Development




**Koketso Moeti**  
 South Africa  
 Executive Director,  
 amandla.mobi




**Roseline Orwa**  
 Kenya  
 Executive Director,  
 Rona Foundation




**Francisca Mutapi**  
 Zimbabwe  
 Professor, Global Health Infection and Immunity, University of Edinburgh




**Renzo Guinto**  
 Phillipines  
 Associate Professor, SingHealth Duke-NUS Global Medical School, National University of Singapore and Former Director, Planetary and Global Health, St. Luke's Medical Center College of Medicine





Boubacar Zakou Zeinabou and Gloria Agyare, 2023 Impact West Africa Fellows

## Lessons Learned



**STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS:** Collaborations with like-minded organizations and leaders are critical for ensuring impact and securing funding in an increasingly challenging environment.



**ADAPTABILITY:** Flexibility and adaptability are vital to evolving global health and development landscapes, ensuring our initiatives remain relevant and effective. It is essential to increase opportunities for fellows to learn from one another and from other experts and have dedicated space and time to implement necessary adaptations to their programs.



**REGIONAL FOCUS:** Recognizing the significance of regional focus in enhancing fellows' experiences and influence, the Fellowship is launching regionally focused programs to facilitate targeted advocacy campaigns and to deepen regional connections and partnerships to accelerate reach and impact.

### Looking Ahead: Charting the Course for the Next Decade of Impact

As we reflect on more than a decade of engaging fellows, the New Voices Fellowship looks forward to building on its legacy of driving sustainable change in the next decade and beyond. Our vision includes supporting locally designed regional fellowships, continuing to foster global cohorts, and investing in alumni to cultivate locally rooted advocacy coalitions worldwide. Together, we will continue to elevate voices from across the globe and catalyze positive change for generations to come.

# Healthy Communities Fellowship: Supporting Local BIPOC Leaders Spearheading Community Initiatives that Address Health Inequities

## About the Healthy Communities Fellowship

The [Healthy Communities Fellowship \(HCF\)](#) is a transformative program that equips locally rooted leaders with the tools they need to drive change in their communities. The fellowship works to advance equity by helping Black, Indigenous, and other people of color (BIPOC) leaders change the stories people tell themselves and each other. Narrative change redefines what we think is just and possible. The fellowship provides individualized and tailored communication as well as narrative and leadership training and coaching that prepares fellows to lead from a place of lived and learned experience. Since 2019, 43 HCF fellows have joined the network, representing 17 communities from across the United States and two communities in Africa. By investing in those closest to the challenges, the program equips fellows to design and implement effective solutions to improve community health.

The fellows learn essential skills such as opinion writing, advocacy planning, interviewing, and social media management, positioning them as experts in their respective fields. Leveraging the extensive experience and influential network of Aspen Global Innovators Group, the Fellowship provides unparalleled opportunities to learn from and connect with global leaders.

Fellows in the cohort are leaders spearheading movements to create healthy communities, address systemic inequities, and tackle social determinants of health such as education, environmental factors, income inequality, unemployment, food insecurity, housing, social inclusion, health services, and racial discrimination. By raising community awareness of these challenges and potential solutions, these fellows chart innovative paths forward that significantly improve the lives of their neighbors.

Entering its fifth year, the HCF stands as a beacon of transformative leadership in public health worldwide. This initiative prepares emerging leaders to address pressing health challenges through innovative solutions, community engagement, and policy advocacy. By nurturing a diverse cohort of fellows, the program catalyzes sustainable change at the grassroots level, promoting holistic well-being and resilience.



## Highlights from 2023

The Healthy Communities Fellowship program welcomed 10 new fellows from Anchorage, Alaska; Tulsa, Oklahoma, and San Antonio, Texas, bringing the total number of fellows since the program's inception to 43. The 2023 cohort includes:

### Veron Blue

San Antonio, Texas  
 Founder and  
 Executive Director,  
 Faith & Community  
 Wellness Center, Inc.



### Jamar Hill

Anchorage, Alaska  
 Founder, Gamers  
 Baseball Alaska/RBI  
 Alaska



### Omare Jimmerson

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
 Executive Director,  
 Tulsa Birth Equity  
 Initiative



### Stephen Lucke

San Antonio, Texas  
 Founder, Gardopia  
 Gardens



### Dr. Christopher McNeil

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
 Founder, Youth  
 Medical Mentorship



### Dr. Janel Pasley

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
 Founder, The Astute  
 Creative, LLC;  
 Program Officer,  
 Ascension St. John



### Alana Peterson

Sitka, Alaska  
 Executive Director,  
 Spruce Root



### Ashley Sims

Tulsa, Oklahoma  
 Managing Director,  
 Build in Tulsa



### Alex Bailey

San Antonio, Texas  
 Founder, Black  
 Outside, Inc.



## Lessons Learned



**REGIONAL-BASED MODEL:** Due to the success of the first two regional-based cohorts, the fellowship team is enthusiastic about expanding this model to communities around the United States. This approach allows for shared learning within existing communities and brings those teachings to similar communities across the country. As a testament to their effectiveness, the team has been invited into two additional communities in Texas and Alaska to amplify the expertise and impact of local leaders and their community health innovations.



**TAILORED SUPPORT TO ALUMNI:** One size does not fit all when supporting our alumni. Each fellow has unique goals and aspirations, requiring tailored support and resources to thrive. By listening to their feedback and understanding their evolving needs, we can design meaningful engagement opportunities that enable alumni to continue driving positive change in their communities.



**EMBRACING FEEDBACK AND ITERATION:** Feedback loops are essential for program improvement and refinement. We embrace a culture of continuous feedback and iteration, actively soliciting input from alumni to identify areas for improvement and innovation. By incorporating alumni feedback into program design and implementation, we can ensure that our fellowship program remains responsive to the evolving needs of participants and communities.

These lessons learned inform our past efforts and guide our future direction. By prioritizing alumni engagement, offering tailored support, fostering community-led initiatives, embracing feedback, and celebrating success and failure, we are confident in our ability to drive meaningful change and advance health equity in communities nationwide.

**Read the Healthy  
 Communities  
 Fellowship Five  
 Year Impact  
 Report**





## Looking Forward

As we look ahead to the next phase of our journey, our vision for the Healthy Communities Fellowship is clear and ambitious. Here's what we aim to achieve in the next five years:



**ENGAGING HCF ALUMNI:** We are committed to nurturing a vibrant alumni community that collaborates with mentors and supports each other. Through ongoing training, mentorship opportunities, and alumni-led initiatives, we will extend the impact of the fellowship far beyond the program's duration.



**SETTING UP COMMUNITIES FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY:** Our focus is ensuring the long-term sustainability and self-sufficiency of existing fellowship communities. By selecting alumni cohorts in places like Tulsa, Oklahoma, we aim to transition from a fellowship-driven model to community-led initiatives, fostering lasting change and serving as a blueprint for other communities.



**EXPANDING REGIONAL APPROACH TO NEW COMMUNITIES:** We aspire to expand our reach to new communities that can benefit from our transformative fellowship. Regions like Durham, North Carolina; Memphis, Tennessee; and Atlanta, Georgia are on our list of future communities where we will forge strategic partnerships to equip local leaders and drive meaningful change nationally.

Our vision is rooted in the knowledge that local leaders hold the key to transformative change.

We invite our partners, supporters, and other stakeholders to join us on this journey as we cultivate a new generation of leaders poised to drive positive change in their communities and beyond.

*Stephen Lucke,  
2023 Healthy Communities Fellow*

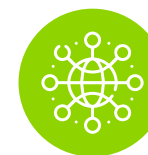
# AMP Health: Improving Health Systems and Outcomes by Collaborating with Governments to Strengthen the Leadership and Management Capacity within Ministry of Health Teams

## About AMP Health

AMP Health supports governments in building visionary and effective public sector teams, particularly within health ministries. Since its inception in 2015, AMP Health has partnered with teams in 15 African countries, facilitating the skill improvement for over 700 civil servants. The approach combines embedded support, experiential learning workshops, peer learning, and coaching to foster effective teamwork and institutionalize leadership and management capabilities.

Currently, AMP Health partners with Ministry of Health teams in community health, non-communicable diseases, malaria, tuberculosis, immunizations, maternal and child health, health innovation, and regional systems strengthening. In 2023, AMP Health expanded its partnerships with government teams, with 14 management partners embedded in health ministries across 12 countries: the Central African Republic, Chad, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Namibia, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, and Zambia. The team also remains engaged with those who no longer have a management partner in Sierra Leone and Togo, supporting their continued leadership and management development journeys.

## Highlights from 2023



**EXPANDING REACH:** AMP Health's partnerships have steadily expanded in response to the increased desire for leadership and management support. They now reach individuals and teams across various countries and programmatic areas including community health, epidemiology, innovation, and more.



**DEPTH OF ENGAGEMENT:** By engaging deeply with partner teams and across multiple programmatic areas, AMP Health enhances its ability to support health ministries in transforming their institutional cultures and practices sustainably.



**PARTNER SATISFACTION:** High partner satisfaction levels underscore the effectiveness of AMP Health's approach, with senior ministry officials and team leads consistently reporting positive outcomes that meet or exceed their expectations.



In 2023, AMP Health continued to strengthen its impact through various initiatives:



**NEW PARTNERSHIPS:** AMP supported two new partnerships in Ghana: one focused on subnational leadership and management capability development, another supporting the government’s establishment of a Country Innovation Platform, and a third in the Central African Republic in response to governments’ eagerness for deeper engagement.



**TEAM EFFECTIVENESS:** Through regular assessments, AMP Health ensured that partner teams exhibited healthy and effective team dynamics, focusing on trust, cohesiveness, role clarity, and shared purpose.



**INDIVIDUAL SKILL ENHANCEMENT:** Monitoring individual progress, AMP Health observed improvements across all tracked leadership and management competencies, with team members reporting increased capability and independence in their roles.

## Helping teams achieve their goals

- ▶ In Chad, the National Malaria Control Program received recognition for exceptional performance in malaria prevention, attributed to meticulous planning, effective partner coordination, and data digitization.
- ▶ In Mali, the health oversight team successfully engaged partners to bolster support for the National Health Strategic Plan, improving planning, communication, and negotiation skills.
- ▶ The National Malaria Control Service of Mauritania was promoted to a program within the Ministry of Health, demonstrating the impact of their work and enhanced visibility.
- ▶ In Liberia, improved coordination of insulin distribution was achieved through enhanced communication with partners and the Ministry of Health’s oversight of supplies, ensuring a more transparent and equitable process.
- ▶ In Ghana, a new partnership between the Ghana Health Service (GHS), USAID, Grand Challenges Canada, and AMP Health established a Country Innovation Platform (CIP) to identify and support innovative solutions to critical health challenges. The CIP was launched in February 2023 with a co-creation workshop facilitated by GHS. Chioma Ogbozor, an AMP Health Management Partner, works with the GHS team to help them identify health challenges where innovation is most needed, identify high-potential innovations, and prepare for scaling up and institutionalizing innovations.
- ▶ In Nigeria, Zambia, and now Chad, AMP Health has been working alongside the Global Financing Facility for Women, Children, and Adolescents (GFF) to strengthen the leadership and management skills of teams working to improve health outcomes for women and children.

## 2023 by the Numbers

**14** management partners embedded in health ministries across 11 countries, supporting teams across three languages (English, French, and Portuguese)

*“The mentors leverage their professional knowledge, experience, and expertise combined with their coaching skills to empower the regional directors and their teams to make strategic decisions and to find solutions to the complex issues the regions encounter.”*

– Ronke Ampiah Adamaley, AMP Health Management Partner in Ghana

**29** leadership & management development and training sessions convened, including two Leadership Lab events that brought multiple teams together

*“Walking with the Nigeria Country Leadership Program (CLP) through their transformative leadership journey has been inspiring. As many team members acknowledge, a lot of the concepts of the CLP were familiar, but there was a fresh perspective and approach to applying transformative leadership competencies to their day-to-day work.”*

– Dr Shola Dele-Olowu, AMP Health Management Partner in Nigeria

**6** new members have been added to AMP’s partnership board, five of whom are from Africa



## Lessons Learned

AMP Health recently completed the development of its next [strategic plan](#), which will guide its work leading up to the 2030 deadline for the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. AMP expresses gratitude for continued support as it works alongside African public sector teams to help them achieve their goals in serving their people. Here are key lessons learned in 2023:

- 1 LINKING SKILL DEVELOPMENT TO TEAM ACHIEVEMENTS:** The intrinsic value of skill development lies in its tangible impact on health systems. Building skills must directly result in improvements in team performance and health outcomes to be truly effective.
- 2 BEHAVIOR CHANGE TAKES TIME:** Sustainable behavior change is gradual. Longer embedded periods allow for deeper engagement, leading to consistent team dynamics and performance improvements over time.
- 3 RAPID IMPACT IS POSSIBLE:** While behavior change requires time, AMP Health has observed significant improvements in team cohesion, stakeholder management, and efficiency within as little as six months of intervention in some instances.
- 4 UNDERSTANDING THE EVOLUTION OF TEAM DEVELOPMENT:** Teams follow a predictable development trajectory, from building trust to introducing new practices and eventually becoming more strategic and ambitious in their goals.
- 5 ADDRESSING BASIC NEEDS YIELDS SIGNIFICANT GAINS:** Even small improvements in basic infrastructure and team dynamics can create substantial impact, particularly in challenging working environments.
- 6 ADAPTING TO GEOGRAPHIC EXPANSION:** As AMP Health expands the communities it serves, the organization must continue to adapt its approach to accommodate diverse languages and local contexts, ensuring relevance and effectiveness.
- 7 PRIORITIZING INCLUSIVITY:** Creating an inclusive environment where every team member feels valued and included is essential for unlocking improved performance and ownership.

## Looking Forward

As AMP Health continues its mission to strengthen leadership and management capacities in African health systems, it remains committed to expanding its reach, deepening engagement with partner teams, and fostering sustainable transformation. Through ongoing partnerships and innovative initiatives, AMP Health aims to catalyze positive change and contribute to the long-term resilience and effectiveness of health systems across the continent.

# Communities First Global Collaborative: Advancing Health Equity and Building Resilience

The Communities First Global Collaborative is a powerful partnership between Aspen Global Innovators Group, Partners in Health, and the University of Global Health Equity that aims to support the development of community resilience strategies and leaders. These leaders are designing community systems and strengthening primary care-level response systems to prepare communities for disruptions and ready community leaders with effective, home-grown solutions to the impact of future pandemics and crises like the COVID-19 pandemic. It unites diverse voices from communities worldwide to exchange innovative solutions grounded in lived experience. By harnessing the wisdom and expertise of community leaders, the Communities First Global Collaborative supports sustainable, equity-focused efforts that strengthen health systems for everyone. Through initiatives such as the Global Academy for Health Systems Resilience, the Collaborative amplifies the collective voice of community leaders and advances new ideas that can shape plans and policies to strengthen health systems.

## Highlights from 2023

In June 2023, during the Aspen Ideas Health Festival, Partners in Health and the Aspen Global Innovators Group launched the Global Academy for Community Health Systems Resilience, the leadership and development component of the Communities First Global Collaborative. It brings together new voices and solutions to the table that are community-inspired and community-driven to help create a health system that works for all. The Global Academy is a year-long program that supports community leaders from the United States and Africa as they design and implement community health systems resilience and recovery strategies, build a sustained collaborative learning network of community leaders, and strengthen public health systems to prevent and respond to pandemics and humanitarian crises. The initial iteration of the Communities First Global Collaborative was funded with the support of the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the Skoll Foundation. This visionary funding enabled the partnership with Partners in Health and the University of Global Health Equity.



Sitawa Wafula, 2016 New Voices Fellow



Sixteen leaders from Malawi; Lesotho; Rwanda; Chicago, Illinois; Minneapolis, Minnesota; New Bedford and Fall River, Massachusetts; and Henderson, North Carolina, were selected to participate in the inaugural cohort. These leaders are working at the frontlines of health systems, pandemic response, and humanitarian action.

Over the next year, they will embark on a journey with us to inspire, innovate, and lead by example, shaping the future of their health systems and making a meaningful impact in their communities.

### Looking Forward

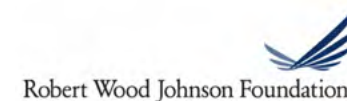
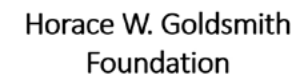
The Communities First Global Collaborative has ambitious objectives to advance global health equity in the coming year. One of its key goals is to test and formalize the Global Academy of Health Resilience interactive training course. The program also seeks to provide technical assistance for the participants to develop and implement innovative solutions to address the challenges and opportunities in their contexts. Thanks to support from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the first class convened at the University of Global Health Equity (UGHE) in Kigali, Rwanda, in April 2024 for a two-week, in-person training boot camp to ground in a health system curriculum that will inform the project or program they will be implementing once they leave Rwanda. After the boot camp, participants will engage in a series of online and in-person learning modules, mentorship sessions, peer-to-peer exchanges, and field visits.

By focusing on these vital initiatives and partnering with organizations that can support their expansion, the Collaborative is committed to building solid partnerships and promoting health equity across the globe.

Dr. Jean Baptiste Musafiri, 2024 Communities First Global Collaborative Fellow

## Recognizing Our Funders and Collaborators

We are grateful to all the organizations that supported the Aspen Global Innovators Group in 2023. This report highlights the impact we achieved together. We look forward to continued collaboration and invite any organizations curious about supporting our work to connect with us.





Institute for  
Racial, Ethnic &  
Socioeconomic Equity  
THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY



Our mission spans continents, and we understand that this journey towards positive change requires collaboration. We invite you to partner with us and become part of our community of changemakers dedicated to advancing health equity and community-driven solutions worldwide.

To get involved or partner with us, please contact us at [globalinnovators@aspeninstitute.org](mailto:globalinnovators@aspeninstitute.org).



Sitawa Wafula, 2016 New Voices Fellow and  
Stellah Bosire, 2018 New Voices Fellow





ASPEN GLOBAL  
INNOVATORS GROUP

◆ aspen institute